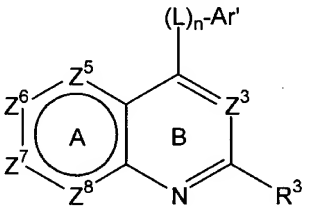
## AMENDMENT

**In the Claims:**

**Please amend claims 1 and 17 as follows:**

1. (Twice Amended) A method to inhibit p38α activity, which method comprises contacting said p38α with a compound of the formula:




(1)

or the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof

wherein $R^3$ comprises a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic moiety, wherein said aromatic moiety is a monocyclic or fused bicyclic moiety containing 5-12 ring member atoms, optionally comprising one or more heteroatoms selected from O, S and N;

wherein $Z^3$ is N and each remaining Z is $CR^2$ or N, wherein no more than two Z positions in ring A are N, and wherein two adjacent Z positions in ring A cannot be N;

each $R^2$ is either

(i) independently selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, acyl, wherein each of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl and acyl may optionally contain 1-2 O, S or N, aryl, and arylalkyl, each of said aryl and arylalkyl optionally containing 1 or more O, S or N and wherein in each of the foregoing other than H may be unsubstituted or substituted with 1-3 substituents selected independently from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, alkylaryl, aroyl, N-aryl, NH-alkylaryl, NH-aroyl, halo, OR, $NR_2$, SR, -SOR, $-SO_2R$, -OCOR, -NRCOR, $-NRCONR_2$, -NRCOOR, -NRSOR, $-NRSO_2R$, $-OCONR_2$, RCO, -COOR, $-SO_3R$, $-CONR_2$, $SO_2NR_2$, CN, $CF_3$, and $NO_2$, wherein each R is independently H or alkyl (1-4C), and wherein any aryl or aroyl groups on said substituents may be further substituted by alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, halo, OR, $NR_2$, SR, -SOR, $-SO_2R$, -OCOR, -NRCOR, $-NRCONR_2$, -NRCOOR, -NRSOR, $-NRSO_2R$, $-OCONR_2$, RCO, -COOR, $-SO_3R$, $-CONR_2$, $SO_2NR_2$, CN, $CF_3$, and $NO_2$, wherein each R is independently H or alkyl (1-4C), or

(ii) independently selected from the group consisting of halo, OR, $NR_2$, SR, -SOR, $-SO_2R$, -OCOR, -NRCOR, $-NRCONR_2$, -NRCOOR, NRSOR, $NRSO_2R$, $-OCONR_2$, RCO, -COOR, $-SO_3R$, NRSOR, $NRSO_2R$, $-CONR_2$, $SO_2NR_2$, CN, $CF_3$, and $NO_2$, wherein each R is independently H or alkyl (1-4C);

B1

wherein L is a divalent moiety that provides a distance of 2-8Å between ring B and Ar';

n is 0 or 1; and

Ar' is a cyclic hydrocarbyl aliphatic, cyclic hydrocarbyl aliphatic containing one or more heteroatoms or a monocyclic or polycyclic aromatic moiety any of the foregoing optionally substituted with 1-3 substituents, wherein two of said substituents may form a 5-7 member cyclic optionally heterocyclic aliphatic ring and wherein Ar' and any said substituents thereon forming a cyclic aliphatic ring, may optionally contain one or more ring atoms selected from O, S and N, wherein said compound inhibits p38α activity.

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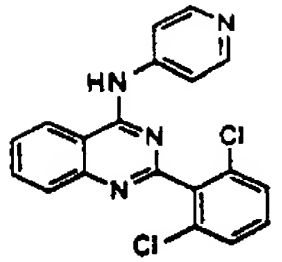
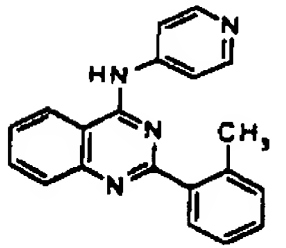
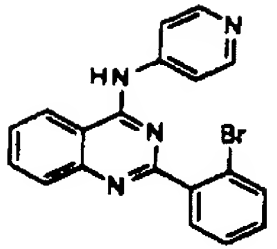
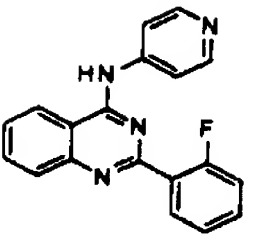
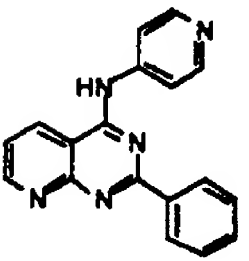
17. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the compound of formula (1) is selected from the group consisting of the following compounds:

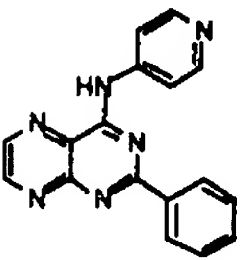


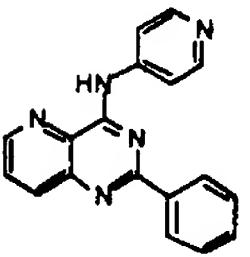












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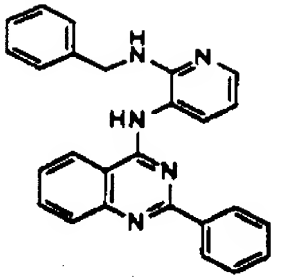

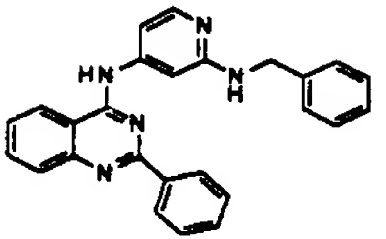

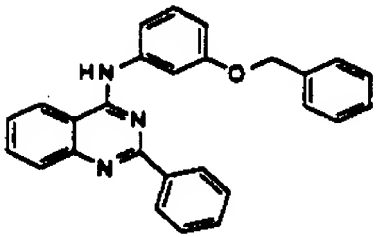

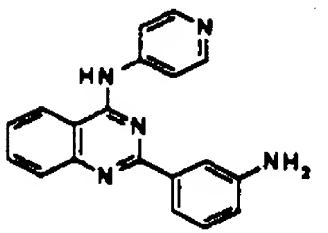

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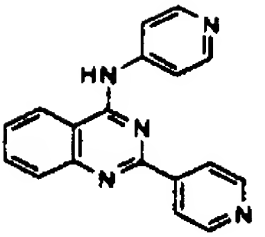

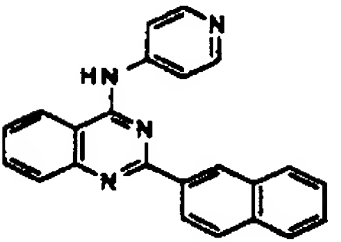

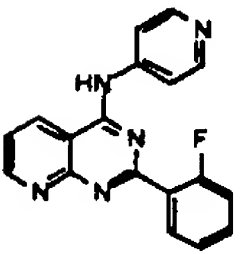

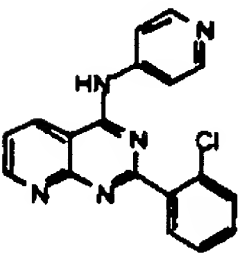

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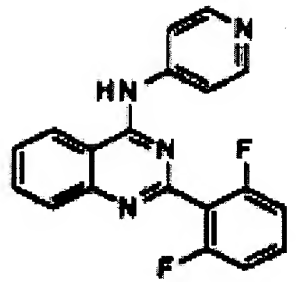

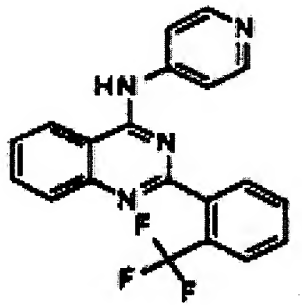

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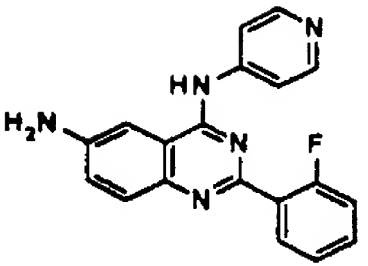

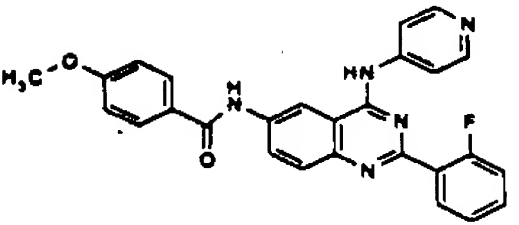

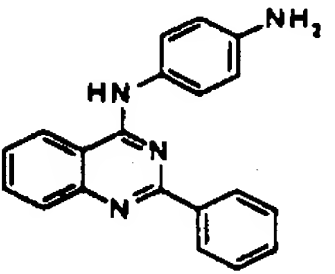

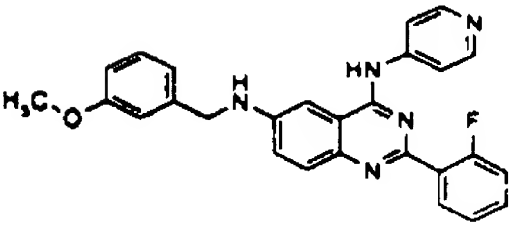

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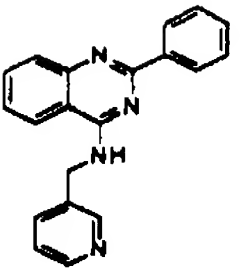

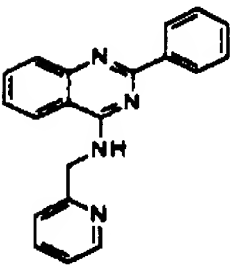

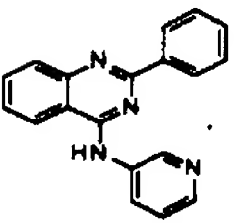

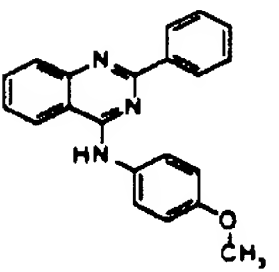

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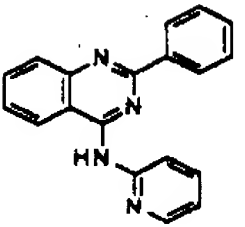

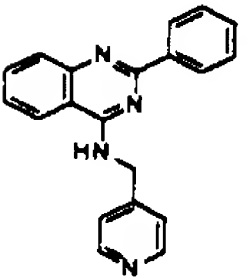

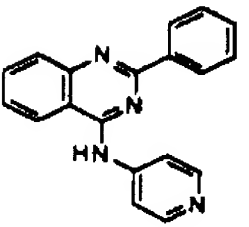

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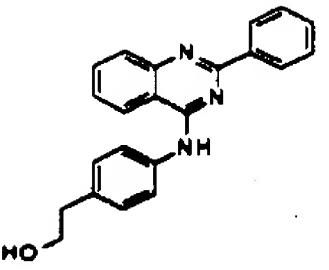

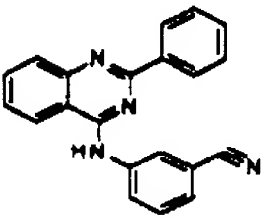

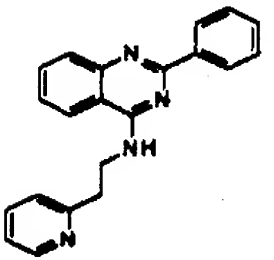

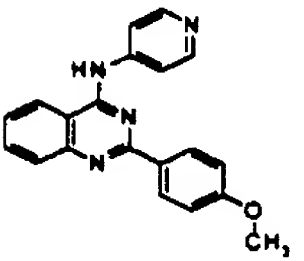

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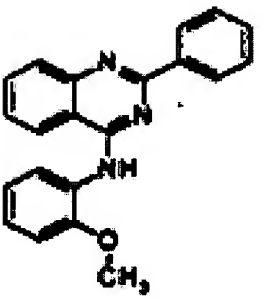

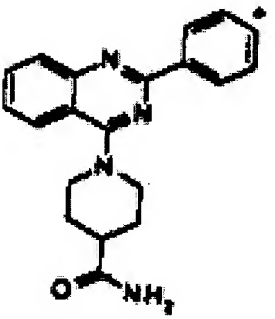

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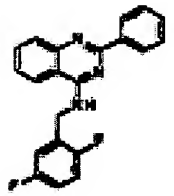

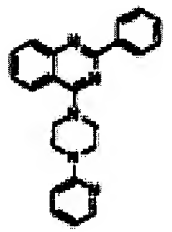

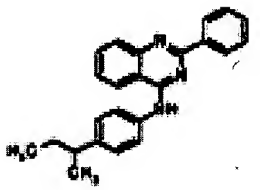

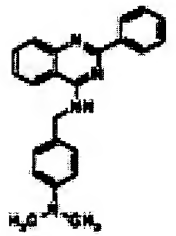

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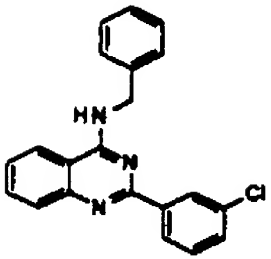

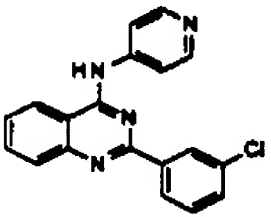

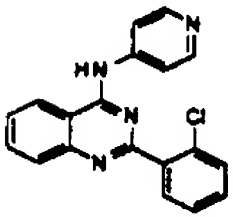

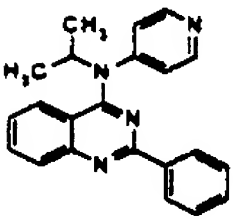

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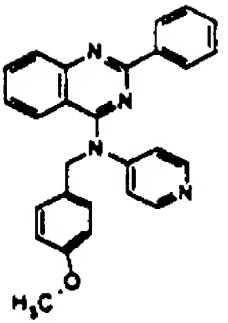

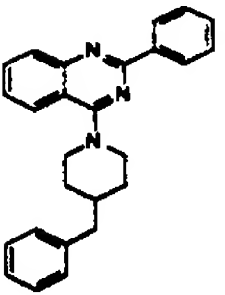

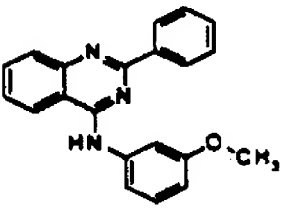

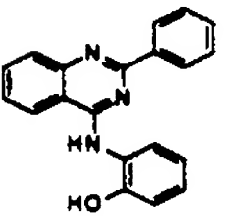

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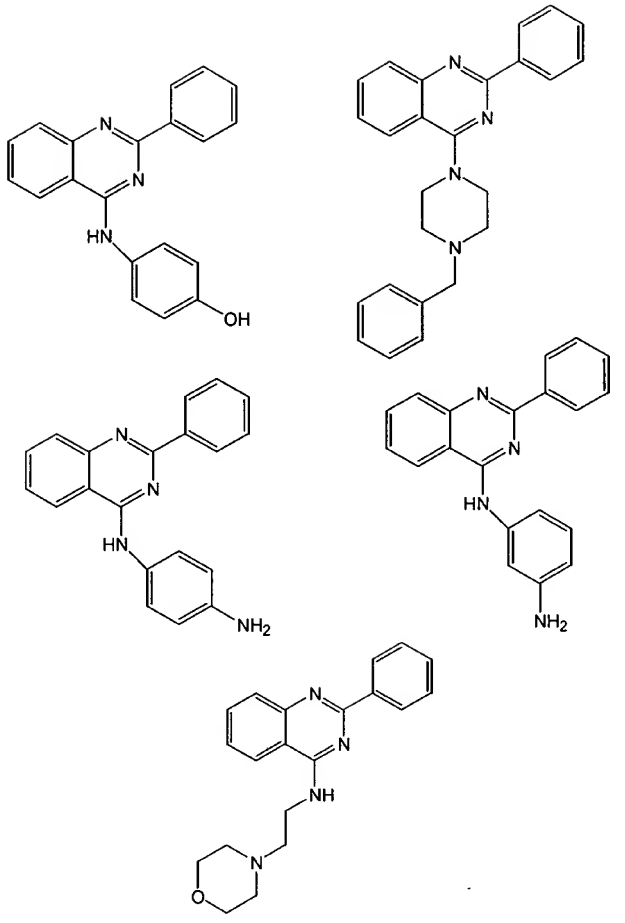

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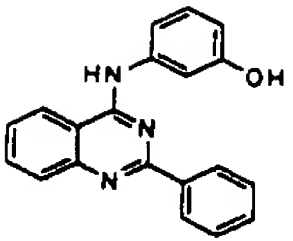


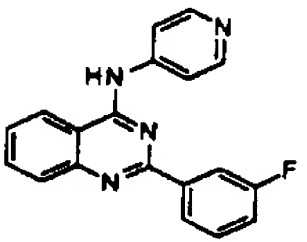


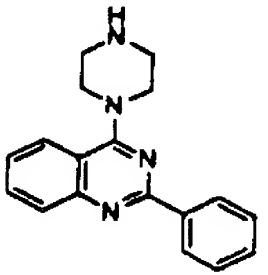

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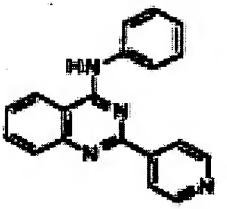

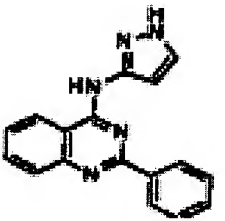

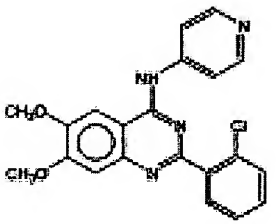

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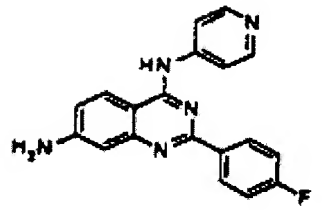

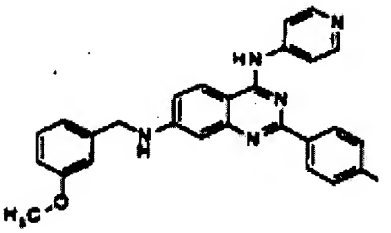

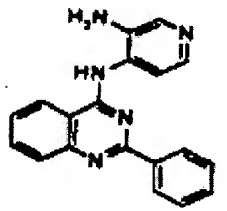

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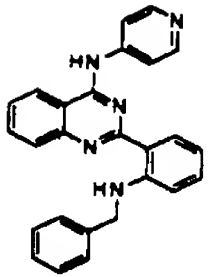

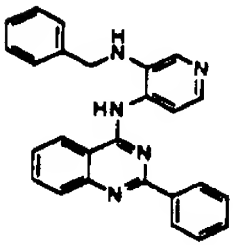

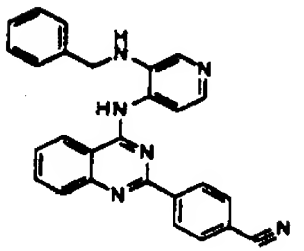

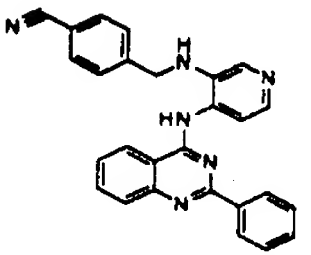

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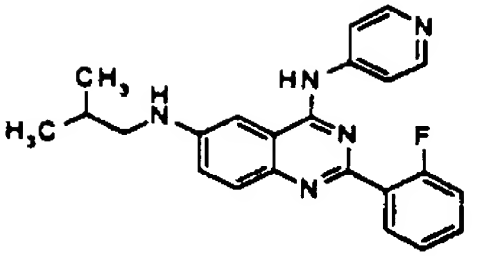

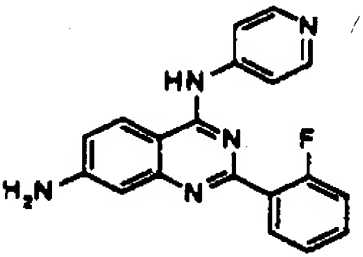

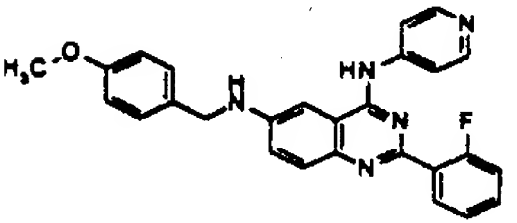

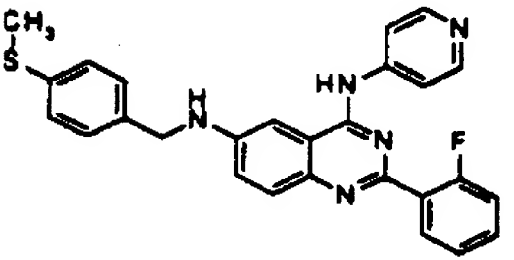

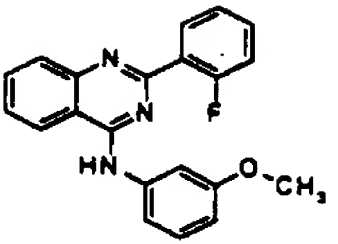

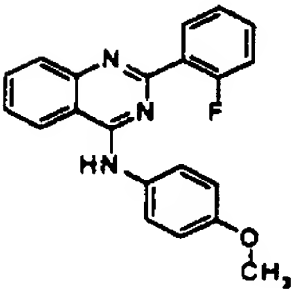

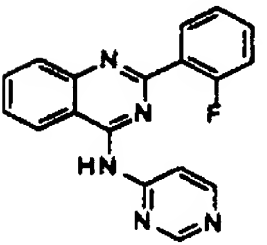

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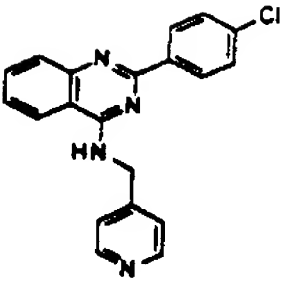


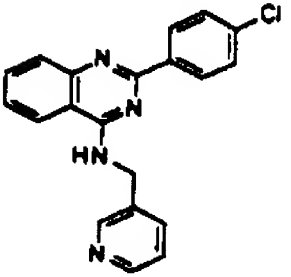


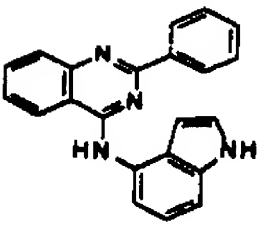


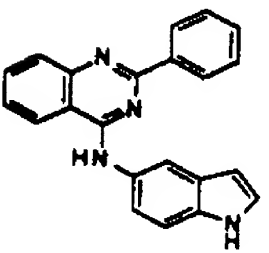

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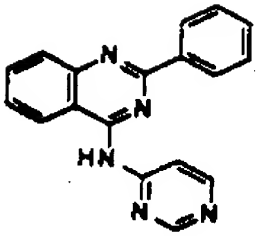

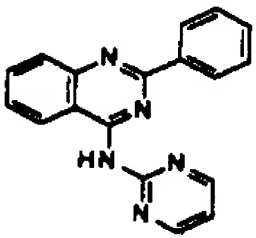

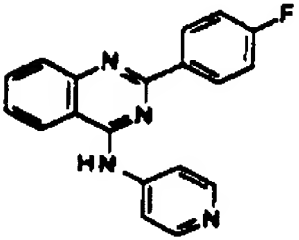

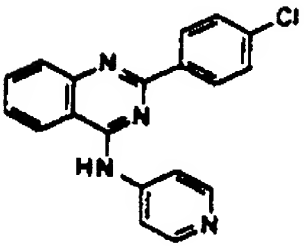

**Please add the following claim:**

34. (New) A method to inhibit p38α activity, which method comprises contacting said p38α with a compound selected from the group consisting of

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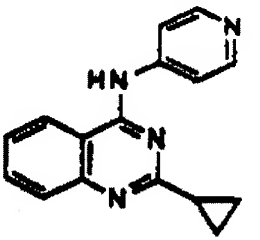


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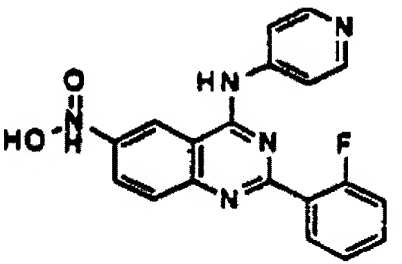


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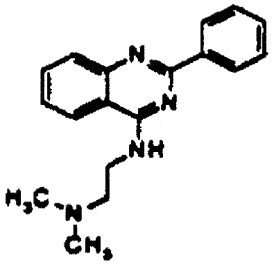

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